

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 JOHANN 00344 161126Z
ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 DHA-02

IO-13 /080 W

-----161127Z 061829 /21

R 161042Z FEB 77

FM AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5629

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

UNCLAS JOHANNESBURG 344

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS PINT SF

SUBJ: DETAINEE DIES AT JOHANNESBURG POLICE HEADQUARTERS

1. YOUNG BLACK DETAINEE FELL TO HIS DEATH FROM TENTH FLOOR OF JOHANNESBURG POLICE HEADQUARTERS FEBRUARY 15 WHEN, ACCORDING TO POLICE STATEMENT, HE CLIMBED OUT WINDOW TO ESCAPE OFFICERS WHO WERE INTERROGATING HIM. DETAINEE WAS MATTHEWS MABELANE (AGE 23), FORMER STUDENT IN SOWETO, WHO WAS DETAINED JANUARY 27 UNDER SECTION SIX OF TERRORISM ACT. MABELANE IS UNDERSTOOD TO BE EIGHTEENTH PERSON TO HAVE DIED IN POLICE CUSTODY SINCE LAST MARCH.

2. WHILE MOST INTERROGATING ROOMS HAVE BARRED WINDOWS, THE ONE IN WHICH MABELANE WAS BEING QUESTIONED DID NOT. ACCORDING TO PRESS, POLICE COMMISSIONER MAJOR GENERAL W. H. KOTZE SAID MABELANE "JUMPED ON TO A CHAIR, FORCED THE WINDOW OPEN, AND CLIMBED ON TO A 130 CM FURROWED LEDGE THAT RUNS ALONG THE NORTH SIDE OF THE BUILDING. OTHER POLICE OFFICERS IN THE ROOM WERE TAKEN BY SURPRISE. MR. MABELANE WAS SITTING CALMLY AT A TABLE MOMENTS EARLIER. HE RAN ALONG THE LEDGE AND FELL AS A POLICE UNCLASSIFIED

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OFFICER CALLED THROUGH THE WINDOW FOR HIM TO COME BACK."

3. MRS. HELEN SUZMAN (PROP) IS QUOTED BY PRESS AS SAYING THAT DEATH RATE AMONG DETAINEES HAD REACHED "ALARMING PROPORTIONS. IT IS TIME THERE WAS AN INDEPENDENT INQUIRY. THE (JUSTICE) MINISTER'S EXPLANATION IS USUALLY THAT THE DETAINEES ARE COMMUNISTS WHO HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED TO KILL THEMSELVES RATHER

THAN GIVE THE REQUIRED INFORMATION. IF SO, WHY ARE THERE NO
SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS TO PREVENT SUICIDES?"
JOHNSON

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DETENTION, DEATHS, PRISONERS, INTERROGATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 16-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977JOHANN00344
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
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Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
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Format: TEL
From: JOHANNESBURG
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770237/aaaabgig.tel
Line Count: 65
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Message ID: adf3a1c5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Review Release Date: n/a
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Subject: DETAINEE DIES AT JOHANNESBURG POLICE HEADQUARTERS
TAGS: PINS, PINT, SF, (MABELANE, MATTHEWS)
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Type: TE
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